

Applic. No. 10/766,593

Amdt. dated August 30, 2005

Reply to Office action of July 13, 2005

Claim Amendments

This listing of the claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Claim 1 (currently amended): A punching and scoring backing plate, comprising:

~~a metal sheet, said metal sheet being formed of aluminum sheet~~
~~metal~~

an aluminum plate having a thickness, a hard-anodized top layer, and a scoring groove formed therein, said scoring groove having a residual thickness of at least 0.1 mm.

Claim 2 (cancelled)

Claim 3 (currently amended): The punching and scoring backing plate according to claim [[2]] 1, wherein said top layer has a hardness of at least 350 HV 0.05.

Claim 4 (currently amended): The punching and scoring backing plate according to claim [[2]] 1, wherein said top layer has a thickness of at least 10 μm .

Applic. No. 10/766,593

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Claim 5 (withdrawn-currently amended): A method for producing a punching and scoring backing plate, which comprises ~~producing the backing plate from a metal sheet formed of aluminum sheet metal~~ providing an aluminum plate having a thickness and a hard-anodized top layer, and forming a scoring groove in the plate with a residual thickness of at least 0.1 mm.

Claim 6 (cancelled).

Claim 7 (withdrawn-currently amended): The method according to claim ~~[[6]]~~ 5, which further comprises providing a carrier layer lying under the top layer, and introducing ~~[[a]]~~ the scoring groove into the aluminum ~~sheet-metal~~ plate to a depth causing the scoring groove to completely penetrate the top layer and only incompletely penetrate the carrier layer.

Claim 8 (withdrawn): The method according to claim 7, which further comprises carrying out the step of introducing the scoring groove into the aluminum sheet metal by milling.

Claim 9 (withdrawn): A machine for processing a printing material, comprising a punching and scoring backing plate formed of aluminum sheet metal.

Applic. No. 10/766,593

Amdt. dated August 30, 2005

Reply to Office action of July 13, 2005

Claim 10 (withdrawn): The machine for processing a printing material according to claim 9, wherein said aluminum sheet metal has a hard anodized top layer.

Claim 11 (withdrawn): The machine for processing a printing material according to claim 10, wherein said top layer has a hardness of at least 350 HV 0.05.

Claim 12 (withdrawn): The machine for processing a printing material according to claim 10, wherein said top layer has a thickness of at least 10 μm .

Claim 13 (withdrawn): The machine for processing a printing material according to claim 10, wherein said aluminum sheet metal has a carrier layer lying under said top layer, and said aluminum sheet metal has a scoring groove completely penetrating said top layer and only incompletely penetrating said carrier layer.

Claim 14 (withdrawn): A method for punching and scoring a printing material, which comprises forming a punching and scoring backing plate of aluminum sheet metal, and punching and scoring the printing material with the backing plate.

Applic. No. 10/766,593

Amdt. dated August 30, 2005

Reply to Office action of July 13, 2005

Claim 15 (withdrawn): The method for punching and scoring a printing material according to claim 14, which further comprises carrying out the step of forming the backing plate by providing the aluminum sheet metal with a hard anodized top layer.

-----Claim 16 (withdrawn): The method for punching and scoring a printing material according to claim 15, which further comprises providing the top layer with a hardness of at least
-----350 HV 0.05.

Claim 17 (withdrawn): The method for punching and scoring a printing material according to claim 15, which further comprises providing the top layer with a thickness of at least 10 μm .

Claim 18 (withdrawn): The method for punching and scoring a printing material according to claim 15, which further comprises providing a carrier layer lying under the top layer, and introducing a scoring groove into the aluminum sheet metal to a depth causing the scoring groove to completely penetrate the top layer and only incompletely penetrate the carrier layer.

Applic. No. 10/766,593

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Reply to Office action of July 13, 2005

Claim 19 (withdrawn): The method for punching and scoring a printing material according to claim 14, which further comprises carrying out the step of punching and scoring the printing material with the machine according to claim 9.

Claim 20 (withdrawn): The method according to claim 14, which further comprises rotating the punching and scoring backing plate in a rotatively operating process.

Claim 21 (withdrawn): The method according to claim 14, which further comprises providing a printing material sheet as the printing material.